

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release Sunday, December 21, 1969

Carroll 343-5634

DUCK STAMP TO FEATURE ROSS' GEESE

The 1970-71 Federal Duck Stamp will bear the likeness of two Ross' geese -- an uncommon species -- resting and preening, it was announced today. The winning entry was created in natural color tempera by artist Edward J. Bierly, of Lorton, Virginia.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife said that 148 entries were received in the 21st Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Selection was based on anatomical accuracy, artistic composition, and suitability for engraving.

The Ross' goose is the smallest of geese, about the size of a mallard duck. It winters in the valleys of California and is unknown in the eastern United States. About 30,000 Ross' geese are believed to exist.

Judges were James Trefethen of the Wildlife Management Institute, Fred G. Evenden of the Wildlife Society, Ash Brownridge of the National Wildlife Federation, Carl Scheele of the Smithsonian Institution, and Reuben Barrick of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

This is the third time that Bierly, a wildlife artist for the National Park Service, has won the contest and he was second a year ago. He won in 1956 with common mergansers and in 1963 with brant.

David A. Maass of Owatonna, Minnesota, and Ron Jenkins of Missoula, Montana, tied for second. Maass painted cinnamon teal and Jenkins, who won the contest in 1965, submitted a painting of Barrow's goldeneye.

This will be the first time that Ross' geese have appeared on the duck stamp.

A new duck stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department. The 1970-71 stamp will go on sale July 1, 1970, and will be valid through June 1971. Every migratory-waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must purchase this \$3 stamp with a State hunting license.

All revenue from duck stamps, except the cost of printing and distribution, is used for acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl. More than 660,000 acres for national wildlife refuges operated by the Bureau have been acquired with duck stamp funds. Nearly 2 million stamps were sold last year.

Artists from 31 States and Canada competed in this year's contest. Minnesota had the most entries--20. Maryland was second with 15.

Maynard Reece of Des Moines, Iowa, designed the current stamp, which features white winged scoters. Information on other designs since the stamps were first issued in 1934 is contained in "Duck Stamp Data," a publication available for 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Glossy prints of the winning design are available to editors only from the Office of Conservation Education, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.